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NEWS RELEASE

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Five Rhode Island Elementary Schools Honored for High Achievement

WARWICK – Five Rhode Island elementary schools have been selected by the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) to take part in a research project on educational practices in high-performing schools.

The five schools are participating today (November 10th) in a day-long project called “Rhode Island’s Best Practice Institute: Honoring and learning from exemplary education practices.” Staff members from the schools are spending the day discussing curriculum and academic goals, leadership, instructional programs and practices, the use of data, and other topics.

“It’s important to recognize excellent educational performance, particularly in schools that are beating the odds and closing achievement gaps between student populations,” said Peter McWalters, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, who welcomed participants to the meeting at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick. “All of our schools can learn and improve by studying the best practices already under way in Rhode Island.”

The five schools are:

- Bradford Elementary School, Westerly
- Chester W. Barrows School, Cranston
- Francis J. Varieur School, Pawtucket
- Hope Valley Elementary School, Chariho
- Tiogue School, Coventry

The NCEA chose the five schools based on a statistical analysis of the testing data and school demographics. The analysis showed that these schools are consistently high performing both on the whole and in comparison with similar schools nationwide.

The purpose of the day-long project is to elicit and exchange ideas about educational practices that explain consistent high performance. The results will be posted on the Just for the Kids website (www.just4kids.org). The NCEA, a sponsor of Just for the Kids, is a nonprofit organization based at the University of Texas at Austin. It has been studying best practices in high-performing schools and districts for five years. NCEA has conducted Best Practice Institutes similar to today’s event in Rhode Island in seven other states so far.

